

# UNAIDS Community Mobilization Division

## Summer update for Faith based organizations.

This is the first in a new series of updates on community engagement and faith based engagement on HIV. This edition has more content than usual as it has taken some time to gather the new mailing list together. It has been a very busy summer, and there is not space to include everything- so do bear with us. ☺

Please do forward this to your colleagues. Anyone wishing to be included in the list, or include an item for circulation should send an e-mail to Sally Smith [smiths@unaids.org](mailto:smiths@unaids.org).

Do follow us on *Twitter*: [@SallyLynnSmith](https://twitter.com/SallyLynnSmith) and *Facebook* [civil society dialogue space](#)

The summer started in July with a launch of the landmark [Lancet Special Edition](#) on Faith and Health Care at a [consultation](#) hosted by the World Bank and UN Interagency Task Force on Faith and Development (IATF) and the Joint learning initiative on faith and local communities (JLI).

The JLI has set up a very useful resource center on their [website](#) where publications, power- point presentations and video links to the sessions held at the conference can be found. Of particular interest to FBOs working on HIV are the [sessions](#) on Ebola and HIV, the corresponding [comment](#) in the Lancet and the [session](#) on sexual and gender based violence.



September has been a busy month, starting with a gathering of leaders from religious groups and faith based organizations in Bristol UK, convened by [UNDP](#) to work on a series of action plans on the SDGs. A second group of faith leaders met in Tanzania from 18 countries across Africa launched a [call to action](#) in support of the fast track agenda towards ending the AIDS epidemic in Eastern and Southern Africa.



Rev Phumzile Mabizela, Executive Director of INERELA+ took the Tanzania call to action to New York, where she challenged other FBOs to take up this call at a [follow up meeting](#), also hosted by the IATF and World Bank on 24<sup>th</sup> September, to launch a framework for action on the moral imperative to end extreme poverty and the Bristol commitments on the SDGs.

In closing this consultation UNAIDS deputy executive director Dr Luiz Loures called on FBOs to be more forthright about their contributions to the AIDS epidemic and future action on the SDG's:

Picture Estelle Marais ARC

*“In some countries, faith based organizations are responsible for 60% of service delivery. The challenge before us will be the implementation of the SDGs. We need to be humble and you should not be. Learning from faith based organizations will help to define the way forward.”* Dr Luiz Loures

On 25<sup>th</sup> September Pope Francis [addressed](#) the UNGA in advance of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)). Following these historic events PEPFAR and UNAIDS launched a [Faith Initiative: Strengthening Faith Community Partnerships for Fast Track](#) and a report, [Building on Firm Foundations](#) of a consultation on faith partners held in Kenya in April 2015, and subsequent research to document the scale and scope of FBO initiatives on HIV in Kenya.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September an interfaith coalition of Muslims and Christians launched an [initiative](#) to improved child and maternal health.



## Communities Deliver: the impact of community responses to HIV

This summer, UNAIDS and Stop AIDS Alliance (a joint partnership between the Alliance and STOP AIDS NOW!) launched a new report - [Communities Deliver](#) – which synthesizes the compelling evidence from numerous studies of the many ways in which communities are advancing the response to HIV and the crucial role they will play in ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

The report comes at a timely moment. The global AIDS response has set new targets for its post-2015 future, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis has almost finished consulting on their 2016-2020 strategies, and many governments are looking to renew their national HIV plans.

## So what's next?

- An upcoming publication “Ending AIDS as a Public Health Threat: Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) as Key Stakeholders”- led by Caritas Internationalis, including a series of in-depth case studies.
- A webinar on Faith and Fast track, data, advocacy action. - date TBC.
- In November the UN System Staff College (UNSSC), UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNHCR host the 5th edition of the Strategic Learning [Exchange](#) on "Engaging with Faith Organizations and Communities in Development and Humanitarian Work". Registration is [open](#) for the meeting which will be held from 17-19 November 2015 in Turin, Italy.
- UNAIDS Programme Coordinating [Board](#) 26-28<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- AIDS conferences:
  - [ICASA](#)- to be held from 29<sup>th</sup> November- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Harare Zimbabwe,
  - [ICAAP](#), 20-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 in Bangladesh in and the
  - [International AIDS conference](#), July 17<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> in Durban 2016